

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

yoke of the foreigner, and show themselves worthy of liberty and the Italian name.¹

There was an immediate and almost unanimous response to this appeal. The exactions and misrule of the papal officials had passed the limit of endurance, and the indignation of the Perugians had been further aroused by the death of the wife of one of their citizens, who, to escape from the violent hands of a nephew of the Abbot of Marmoutier, had thrown herself from the window of her house, and been dashed to pieces on the pavement below. On December 3, with the aid of Florentine troops, the inhabitants of Citta di Castello began the revolt. Viterbo followed. The Abbot promptly sent his English mercenaries against the rebels, upon which, on December 7, the whole people of Perugia, nobles and populace alike, rose in arms, "in the name of God, of His Mother Mary, and of the blessed Saints Ercolano, Lorenzo, and Costanzo," shouting "Death to the pastors of the Church!" There was a general rush of all the papal officials and adherents to the citadel, to which Gomez Albornoz, after a vain attempt to beat back the insurgents, also retreated. The connecting wings of the fortress were broken down, and the Abbot, with Gomez and the rest, were kept closely blockaded, continually harassed by the rudimentary artillery of the epoch, especially a formidable *trabocco*, or ballista, which hurled gigantic stones, and was christened *caccia-preti*, the ^{cc} priest-hunter."²

Gubbio, Sassoferrato, Urbino, Todi, Forli, and other cities rose in rapid succession. In ten days, more than eighty cities and towns in the Patrimony, Umbria, and the Marches had been lost to the Church. Of the larger cities, Rome, Ancona, and Orvieto alone did not move. The Malatesta at Rimini and the Trinci at Foligno still declared for the Church, and the soldiery of Gomez Albornoz still held Ascoli. Messenger after messenger rode into Florence, bearing the branch of olive from the revolted cities.

¹ Gherardi, *op. cit.*, doc. 103.

² There is a vivid account of this liberation of Perugia "from the hands of the accursed pastors of the Church" in the Supplement to Graziani's Chronicle, pp. 220-224.